Strike by Air and Doordarshan Staff

129. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technical staff of Doordarshan and AIR have been agitating over Government's inaction regarding the revision of their pay;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the demands of the technical staff of Doordarshan and AIR and steps taken by Government to resolve them; and

(c) since when their demands have been pending decision of Government and what are the reasons for non-settlement of the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Two Associations of Engineering and Technician Employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan have been agitating for pay revision of Engineering Assistants and Technicians for the last approximately four years. The Government considered these demands and also held negotiations with them from time to time. The Employee's Associations in the meantime filed petition in the Courts which are being defended on merits. Matter is Sub-judice. These Associations have since called off their agitation after receiving an assurance by the Ministry of Information and broadcasting that their latest memorandum of demands dated 17/2/93 would be examined by 15/3/93 inter-departmentally.

Guidelines Regarding time slot for Private producers on Doordarshan

130. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the guidelines regarding private time slot telecast which commenced on January 26, 1993;

(b) whether the Air Times Authority of India has expressed reservations about these guidelines; and

(c) what prompted Government to prescribe these guidelines even before the Air Time Authority of India has formulated the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have not received any formal resolution adopted by the Air Time Committee of India in this regard.

(c) This is on experimental scheme which was drawn up essentially to test the infrastructure and market response before Air Time Committee of India could start the programme scheduled by it from Augest 15, 1993.

Shifting of Doordarshan Operations from Kashmir Valley

131. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has shifted its operations from the Kashmir Valley to some other places;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to re-start its operations from the Valley, soon; and

(d) if so, what action has so far been taken and what further action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) All programmes in regional languages are being planned, produced and telecast from DDK, Srinagar except the news in Urdu and Kashmiri which have been originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Jammu from 5-12-1990.

(c) and (d) Depending upon the ground realities, Government would consider shifting of News production to Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar.